

EIAP phasing to ensure that environmental documents are available to the decision-maker before the final decision is made and ensuring that, until the EIAP is complete, resources are not committed prejudicing the selection of alternatives nor actions taken having an adverse environmental impact or limiting the choice of reasonable alternatives.

(3) Integrating the EIAP into the planning stages of a proposed program or action and, with the EPF, determining as early as possible whether to prepare an EIS.

(4) Presenting the DOPAA to the EPC for review and comment.

(5) Coordinating with the EPF prior to organizing public or interagency meetings which deal with EIAP elements of a proposed action and involving persons or agencies outside the Air Force.

(6) Subsequent to the decision to prepare an EIS, assisting the EPF and Public Affairs Office in preparing a draft NOI to prepare an EIS. All NOIs must be forwarded to HQ USAF/CEV for review and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(f) *Environmental Protection Committee (EPC)*. The EPC helps commanders assess, review and approve EIAP documents.

(g) *Staff Judge Advocate (SJA)*. The Staff Judge Advocate:

(1) Advises the command-level proponent EPF and EPC on CATEx determinations and the legal sufficiency of environmental documents.

(2) Advises the EPF during the scoping process of issues that should be addressed in EISs and on procedures for the conduct of public hearings.

(3) Coordinates the appointment of the independent hearing officer with AFLSA/JAJT (or NGB-JA) and provides support for the hearing officer in cases of public hearings on the draft EIS. The proponent pays administrative and TDY costs. The hearing officer presides at hearings and makes final decisions regarding hearing procedures, with concurrence from HQ USAF/CEV (or ANGRC/CEV).

(4) Promptly refers all matters causing or likely to cause substantial public controversy or litigation through channels to AFLSA/JACE (or NGB-JA).

(h) *Public Affairs Officer*. This officer:

(1) Advises the EPF, the EPC, and the proponent on public affairs implications of proposed actions and reviews environmental documents for public affairs issues.

(2) Advises the EPF during the scoping process of issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

(3) Prepares, coordinates, and distributes news releases related to the proposal and associated EIAP documents.

(4) Notifies the media (television, radio, newspaper) and purchases advertisements when newspapers will not run notices free of charge.

(5) For more comprehensive instructions about public affairs activities in environmental matters, see AFI 35-202.⁶

(i) *Medical Service*. The Medical Service, represented by the bioenvironmental engineer, provides technical assistance to EPFs in the areas of environmental health standards, environmental effects, and environmental monitoring capabilities. The Air Force Armstrong Laboratory, Occupational and Environmental Health Directorate, provides additional technical support.

(j) *Safety Office*. The Safety Office provides technical assistance to EPFs to ensure consideration of safety standards and requirements.

§ 989.4 Initial considerations.

Air Force personnel will:

(a) Consider and document environmental effects of proposed Air Force actions through AF Forms 813, EAs, FONSI, EISs, EIS Records of Decision (ROD), and documents prepared according to Executive Order (E.O.) 12114.

(b) Evaluate proposed actions for possible categorical exclusion (CATEx) from environmental impact analysis (attachment 2 of this part). CATExs may apply to actions in the United States, its territories and possessions, and abroad.

(c) Make environmental documents, comments, and responses, including those of other Federal, state, and local agencies and the public, part of the record available for review and use at all levels of decision making.

⁶See footnote 1 to § 989.1.

(d) Review the specific alternatives analyzed in the EIAP when evaluating the proposal prior to decision making.

(e) Ensure that alternatives considered by the decision-maker are both reasonable and within the range of alternatives analyzed in the environmental documents.

(f) Pursue the objective of furthering foreign policy and national security interests while at the same time considering important environmental factors.

(g) Consider the environmental effects of actions that affect the global commons.

(h) Carry out actions that affect the environment of a foreign nation in a way that allows consideration of the environment, existing international agreements, and the sovereignty of other nations.

(i) Determine whether any foreign government should be informed of the availability of environmental documents. Formal arrangements with foreign governments concerning environmental matters and communications with foreign governments concerning environmental agreements will be coordinated with the Department of State by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (SAF/MIQ) through the Assistant Secretary of Defense. This coordination requirement does not apply to informal working-level communications and arrangements.

§ 989.5 Organizational relationships.

The host EPF manages the EIAP using an interdisciplinary team approach. This is especially important for tenant-proposed actions, because the host command is responsible for the EIAP for actions related to the host command's installations.

(a) The host command prepares environmental documents internally or directs the host base to prepare the environmental documents. Environmental document preparation may be by contract (requiring the tenant to fund the EIAP), or by the tenant unit. Regardless of the preparation method, the host command will ensure the required environmental analysis is accom-

plished before a decision is made on the proposal and an action is undertaken. Host/tenant agreements should provide specific procedures to ensure host oversight of tenant compliance.

(b) For aircraft beddown and unit realignment actions, program elements are identified in the Program Objective Memorandum. Subsequent Program Change Requests must include AF Form 813. When a program for a given year has sufficient support, HQ USAF/XOO notifies the host command or NGB-XO to initiate the EIAP. For classified actions, MAJCOMs and ANG begin reporting monthly EIAP status to HQ USAF/XO (copy to SAF/MIQ and HQ USAF/CEV) while the proposal is still classified, and upon declassification, to HQ USAF/CEV. MAJCOMs and ANG continue reporting until the EIAP is complete for all projects.

(c) To ensure timely initiation of the EIAP, SAF/AQ forwards information copies of all Mission Need Statements and System Operational Requirements Documents to SAF/MIQ, HQ USAF/CEV (or ANGRC/CEV), the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Aerospace Medicine Office (AFMOA/SG), and the affected MAJCOM EPFs.

(d) The MAJCOM of the scheduling unit managing affected airspace is responsible for preparing and approving environmental analyses. The scheduling unit's higher headquarters may choose whether to prepare the environmental document, but is ultimately responsible for EIAP document accomplishment and approval.

§ 989.6 Budgeting and funding.

Contract EIAP efforts are proponent MAJCOM responsibilities. Each year, the EPF budgets for the anticipated EIAP workload based on reports of command proponents. If proponent offices exceed the budget in a given year or identify unforeseen requirements, the proponent offices must provide the remaining funding. For HQ AFMC, the system program office or project office budgets and funds EIAP efforts relating to research, development, testing, and evaluation activities.